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COMMENT ON "A VOICE FROM GERMANY"

It is only today that I have had time to read the translation of my cousin's letter in the *WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MAGAZINE*. Seeing it thus after an interval makes it more strongly apparent how complete was the German Government's preparation of its people for the idea of a necessary war. There must have been hundreds of similar letters written about the same time. I saw several such myself, and received one addressed to me by a Munich physician, which had an entirely similar tone. I now much regret that I destroyed it.

The translation is on the whole admirably done. I hope you will not mind if I allow myself a few criticisms of it. In the first place, as printed the letter is signed George Wagner. My cousin's name is Georg, and should have remained so. You would not write Jacob Marquette, even in an English document. Secondly, in the twelfth line from the top on page 156, the translation says: "Treach-
erous Albion." Does not the original say: "das perfide Albion"? And if so, is there any reason why this should be rendered otherwise than by the classic "Perfidious Albion"?

These criticisms are trivial. There is one other that is of real importance. In the translation the letter is dated from Cologne. You will find that the original says: Calw. Calw (the name is one of two or three words in the German language where the W is pronounced like a B) is a town of about 8,000 inhabitants in the Black Forest, some twenty miles west of Stuttgart. Were this letter from a manufacturer in Cologne, its tone would naturally be what it is, for Cologne is Prussian to the core, and reactionary. But it is exactly its evidence that Prussianism was so carefully instilled into the minds of leaders in even the remote centers of industry in easy-going, good-natured South Germany, that makes this letter of any importance.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE WAGNER.

Madison, Wisconsin, February 9, 1919.